

2004

CONGRESSIONAL QUESTIONNAIRE

from

CONGRESSMAN
CHRISTOPHER SHAYS





Congressman
CHRISTOPHER SHAYS
Fourth District, Connecticut

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January 2004

Dear Friend:

As we begin the new year, I invite you to complete my 2004 Congressional Questionnaire. This questionnaire is long, but the comments and questions it generates help me understand how you feel on a variety of issues facing our great nation.



I want to know your thoughts both on the crucial issues we face in Congress and the concerns most critical in the 17 cities and towns of the Fourth District.

This questionnaire is one way I learn about your opinions and concerns. I hope you will share any remarks you may have in the area provided. If you do not feel the response form provides adequate space for feedback, please send along an additional page. A selection of comments will be included with the results, which will be sent to you in early spring.

In the next few weeks, I will be holding a series of 17 meetings in the Fourth District — 16 community meetings on general issues of concern, and a District-Wide Town Meeting on the War on Terrorism. These are important opportunities for me to hear your thoughts, questions and concerns. The schedule is printed on the back of this questionnaire and I encourage you to attend one or more of these meetings.

Thank you for taking the time to help me represent you better. I hope you will continue to stay in touch.

Sincerely,

Christopher Shays

P.S. If you need any special accommodations at the meetings, please contact Lauren Cozzi in my Bridgeport office.

2004 CONGRESSIONAL QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Which is the most important issue for Congress to address?

- a. Abortion
- b. Budget deficits
- c. Corporate ethics
- d. Education reform
- e. Economic growth/jobs
- f. Election reform
- g. Energy independence
- h. Environmental protection
- i. Gun control
- j. Health care access
- k. HIV/AIDS in Africa
- l. Homeland security
- m. Immigration
- n. Legal/tort reform
- o. Media concentration
- p. Middle East peace
- q. National security
- r. Prescription drug coverage
- s. Social Security reform
- t. Trade
- u. Transportation
- v. Veterans benefits
- w. War on Terrorism
- x. Other

2. Which is the second most important?

3. Which is the third most important?

4. Which is the most important local issue facing you and your family?

- a. Affordable housing
- b. Amtrak/Metro-North
- c. Casino gambling
- d. Child care
- e. Crime/drugs
- f. Education
- g. Homeland security
- h. I-95/Merritt congestion
- i. Jobs/unemployment
- j. Long Island Sound protection
- k. Manufacturing jobs
- l. Municipal corruption
- m. Postal service
- n. Power lines/cell tower siting
- o. State spending/taxes
- p. Property taxes
- q. Other

5. Which is the second most important?

War on Terrorism

6. Do you believe we must fight a War on Terrorism at home and abroad?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Not sure

7. Do you support a pre-emptive military strike by the United States in an area of the world known to harbor terrorists?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Not sure

8. Would you have voted to support the use of force in Afghanistan?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Not sure

9. Would you have voted to support the use of force in Iraq?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Not sure

10. Which of the following statements do you agree with most?

- a. U.S. troops should remain in Iraq until the job of bringing democracy to the country has been completed.
- b. U.S. troops should remain in Iraq only until order has been restored.
- c. U.S. troops should leave Iraq immediately.
- d. Other

11. Which country is the greatest threat to American security and world peace?

- a. Afghanistan
- b. China
- c. Egypt
- d. Iran
- e. Iraq
- f. Liberia
- g. Libya
- h. Mexico
- i. Nigeria
- j. North Korea
- k. Pakistan
- l. Russia
- m. Saudi Arabia
- n. Sudan
- o. Syria
- p. Other
- q. No country is a threat

12. Do you support increased government surveillance to improve homeland security?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Not sure

13. The Assault Weapons Ban will expire in September 2004. Do you believe the ban should be extended?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Not sure

14. Which of the following best reflects your views on casino gambling in Connecticut?

- a. Casino gambling provides economic benefits and entertainment and should be expanded.
- b. Casino gambling is OK as is but should not be expanded.
- c. Casino gambling has a negative impact and should be banned.
- d. Other

15. Which of the following should we do first to improve public education?

- a. Fully fund the No Child Left Behind Act.
- b. Fully fund the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).
- c. Build on current public education reforms by expanding charter and magnet schools.
- d. Give parents the right to choose the public school of their choice.
- e. Give parents the right to choose the public, private or parochial school of their choice.
- f. Grant merit pay for good teachers.
- g. Other

Economy

16. Which statement do you agree with most?

- a. The government spends too much.
- b. The government spends too little.
- c. The government spends just the right amount.
- d. Other

17. Do you support making permanent the tax cuts enacted over the past three years?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Not sure

18. Do you support an increase in the federal gas tax to pay for spending on roads, highways and public transportation?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Not sure

19. Do you support establishing one tax rate ("flat tax") to simplify our tax code and eliminate most deductions?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Not sure

20. Do you support abolishing the federal income tax, including the payroll tax, and replacing it with a national sales tax?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Not sure

21. Which statement do you agree with most?

- a. The government taxes too much.
- b. The government taxes too little.
- c. The government taxes just the right amount.
- d. Other

22. Do you support a Constitutional Amendment defining "marriage" as being between a man and a woman?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Not sure

23. Do you support deportation of illegal aliens?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Not sure

24. Do you support amnesty for illegal aliens?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Not sure

Please respond to statements 25 through 40 with one of the following:

- A. Strongly agree** **B. Somewhat agree**
- C. No opinion** **D. Somewhat disagree**
- E. Strongly disagree**

- 25. I would use public transportation regularly, if it was cleaner, safer and more convenient to my home.
- 26. Any national energy policy should include incentives to decrease consumption and increase use of renewable energy sources.
- 27. It is too easy to sue and collect large settlements from doctors and businesses.
- 28. Illegal aliens should be entitled to public health services.
- 29. Illegal aliens should be entitled to public education and access to higher-education benefits.
- 30. The federal government needs to do more to protect our environment.

- 31. The Internet should be more aggressively regulated to ensure privacy and prevent sharing of personal information.

- 32. Workers should be able to determine how their own Social Security contributions are invested.

- 33. Connecticut's largest cities need an Inspector General to help root out waste, abuse and fraud.

- 34. We must maintain the U.S. commitment of financial and military resources to rebuilding Iraq and Afghanistan.

- 35. Americans should be able to import less-costly, FDA-approved prescription drugs from Canada.

- 36. Corporate executives who commit investor fraud should serve time in jail.

- 37. Long Island Sound has been adequately cleaned up.

- 38. Seniors with lower incomes should pay less out of pocket for Medicare prescription drug benefits than higher-income seniors.

- 39. The public financing system for presidential elections is worth preserving and improving.

- 40. The U.S. should continue to expand free trade through bilateral and multilateral agreements with other countries.

41. Which of the following managed health care reform proposals is most important to you?

- a. Mandate a minimum standard of care.
- b. Guarantee access to specialists.
- c. Ensure prescription drug coverage.
- d. Subject decisions of managed care companies to third-party review.
- e. Grant enrollees the right to sue their managed care companies.
- f. Give doctors more control and authority.
- g. Leave the managed health care system as it is.
- h. End the role of managed care providers in the health care system.
- i. Other

42. Are you better off today than you were five years ago?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Not sure

Community Meeting Calendar

Bridgeport

Saturday, January 10th
4:30 to 6:00 PM
City Hall Annex
999 Broad Street

Darien

Saturday, January 10th
11:30 AM to 1:00 PM
Darien Library
35 Leroy Avenue

Easton

Sunday, January 11th
2:30 to 4:00 PM
Town Hall
225 Center Road

Fairfield

Saturday, January 17th
2:00 to 3:30 PM
Fairfield Public Schools
Central Offices
501 Kings Highway East

Greenwich

Saturday, January 10th
9:00 to 10:30 AM
Town Hall
101 Field Point Road

Monroe

Monday, January 12th
5:30 to 7:00 PM
Town Hall
7 Fan Hill Road

New Canaan

Friday, January 16th
7:00 to 8:30 PM
Town Hall
77 Main Street

Norwalk

Saturday, January 10th
2:00 to 3:30 PM
Norwalk Community
College, West Campus
188 Richards Avenue

Oxford

Sunday, January 11th
12:00 to 1:30 PM
Town Hall
486 Oxford Road

Redding

Tuesday, January 13th
7:00 to 8:30 PM
Town Hall
100 Hill Road

Ridgefield

Saturday, January 17th
9:00 to 10:30 AM
Town Hall
400 Main Street

Shelton

Monday, January 12th
7:30 to 9:00 PM
City Hall
54 Hill Street

Stamford

Wednesday, January 14th
7:00 to 8:30 PM
UConn Stamford
1 University Place
(Broad Street at
Washington Boulevard)

Trumbull

Sunday, January 11th
5:00 to 6:30 PM
Town Hall
5866 Main Street

Weston

Saturday, January 17th
11:30 AM to 1:00 PM
Weston Public Library
56 Norfield Road

Westport

Saturday, January 17th
4:30 to 6:00 PM
Westport Public Library
Arnold Bernhard Plaza
20 Jesup Road

District-Wide Town Meeting on Terrorism

Sunday, January 18th
5:30 PM
Wilton High School
395 Danbury Road, Wilton

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OFFICIAL BUSINESS

This mailing was prepared, published
and mailed at taxpayer expense.

Christopher Shays

M.C.
PRSRT STD
ECRWSS

RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER
FOURTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
CONNECTICUT